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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

obtaining a biological sample from the patient and

isolating IgG from the patient sample,

exposing the IgG to TAO fibroblasts,

measuring the level of [an analyte chosen from the group consisting of]

IL-16[,] or

RANTES produced by the TAO fibroblasts,

[and combinations thereof]

wherein an elevated level of [the analyte] IL-16 or RANTES indicates the presence or severity of TAO [antibody-activated fibroblasts] in the patient.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the level of analyte is measured by an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).

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Applicant has amended the pending claims selected herein to present a single patentable invention. Although claim 13 as amended recites the potential measurement of IL-16 or RANTES. The analysis uses IgG in a patient sample to induce production of these compounds by TAO fibroblasts. Accordingly, the difference in structure between these compounds does not yield multiplicity of inventions. To the extent that the claims, as amended, are deemed to be distinct inventions, Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement. With traverse, Applicant elects the IL-16 species of Group II. Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-2475. If clarification of the amendment or basis for traverse of the